

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 095473

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US

SUBJECT: GREEK REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM

REF: ATHENS 2923

1. YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN FORMULATING RESPONSES TO GOG WITH REGARD TO REFTEL REQUESTS FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON ADMINISTRATION'S EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM:

2. PIPELINE AND ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLIES - WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF DETERMINING PRECISE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT IN PIPELINE AND THEREFORE WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE
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GOG ACTUAL FIGURES AT THIS TIME. WE NOTE THAT TZOUNIS USED DOLS 85 MILLION FIGURE DURING AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH AVEROFF ON MARCH 31 (ATHENS 2686) WHILE IN APRIL 6 MEETING WITH POLCON HE USED DOLS 185 MILLION FIGURE. IF EMBASSY FEELS IT MUST GIVE AN ESTIMATE TO GOG ON AMOUNT IN PIPELINE, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS IN THE DOLS 85 MILLION RANGE BUT THAT THIS FIGURE COULD CHANGE

ONCE PIPELINE ITEMS HAVE BEEN PRECISELY IDENTIFIED AND A FULL ACCOUNTING HAS BEEN MADE. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE MUCH PREFERABLE TO HOLD OFF UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE ACTUAL AMOUNTS.

3. WITH REGARD TO GREEK PERSISTENCE CONCERNING ADDITIONAL MILITARY SUPPLIES TURKEY WOULD BE RECEIVING, WE BELIEVE EARLIER INFORMATION SUPPLIED (PARA 2 STATE 87921) IS ABOUT AS FAR AS WE CAN GO ON THIS SUBJECT. YOU MIGHT WISH TO REITERATE THAT LIFTING OF SECTION 620(X) WOULD REMOVE SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON CASH PURCHASES BY TURKEY OF FMS EQUIPMENT AND WOULD ALLOW THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS. HOWEVER, FMS CREDITS FOR TURKEY OR ANY OTHER FORMS OF FUTURE ASSISTANCE ARE SEPARATE MATTERS SUBJECT TO USUAL APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT NEAR FUTURE DELIVERIES TO TURKEY WOULD INTRODUCE NEW TECHNOLOGY TO THE AREA OR ALTER THE STRATEGIC BALANCE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. RELEASE OF MAP PIPELINE ITEMS WOULD INVOLVE ONLY MATERIAL PROGRAMMED PRE-FEBRUARY 1975 FOR WHICH CORRESPONDING ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO GREECE. MOREOVER, IN VIEW OF LIMITED ABILITY OF THE TURKISH ECONOMY TO SUPPORT EXTENSIVE CASH PURCHASES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE A SITUATION WHICH COULD BE DESCRIBED AS AN ARMS RACE.

4. ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE ON TURKEY IF EMBARGO LIFTED - WE
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REGRET TZOUNIS WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH EMBASSY'S RESPONSE ON WHAT USG INTENDED TO DO WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS. THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT EXPAND ON WHAT IT HAS ALREADY TOLD GOG OTHER THAN REITERATING LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN PARA 8 OF STATE 85786.

5. PURPORTED "LENDING ARRANGEMENTS" IN RENEGOTIATED DCA - WE CAN FIND NO REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE "LENDING ARRANGEMENTS" IN SOLARZ ANKARA PRESS CONFERENCE (ANKARA 2538). THAT PHRASE MAY BE A GARBLE OF SOLARZ' USE OF TERM "LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS" (SECTION 4 OF ANKARA 2538) IN HIS DISCUSSION OF THE RENEGOTIATION OF THE TURKISH DCA. YOU MAY PROVIDE COPY OF SOLARZ ANKARA PRESS CONFERENCE TO MFA. WE HAVE NOT YET DEFINED PRECISELY HOW WE WANT TO PROCEED WITH REVIEW/RENEGOTIATION OF TURKISH (OR GREEK) DCA; YOU SHOULD NOT THEREFORE INDICATE TO MFA WHAT WE MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT DO WITH GOT EXCEPT TO CONFIRM THAT MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL COMMITMENT ELEMENT IN MARCH 1976 TURKISH DCA WAS ONE ASPECT WHICH WE FELT SHOULD PARTICULARLY BE RE-EXAMINED. CHRISTOPHER

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